(b) the number of years for which tbey have been working in this capacity; and

(c) the steps taken for their permanent absorption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) There ar$_e$ about 23 024 RTPs in the Ministry. Details cader-wise.

1. Telephone operators	8824
. Telegraphist	1733
. Telegraph Asstt.	1978
4. Technicians	988
5. Telecom. office Assistant	313
6. Postal/Sorting Assistants	10628
TOTAL	23024

(b) The first batch of RTP candi dates were selected in 1981.

(c) They will be regularised as and when posts are created.

Mini Telephone Exchange in Gujarat

683. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and the number of places in the State of Gujarat where Mini Telephone Exchanges are proposed to be opened during the V^{ear} 1986-87; and

(b) the funds allocated for this purpose and the capacity of each mini telephone exchange?

THE MINTSTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA); (a) The information is given at Annexure I subject to financial ability under the liberalised policy.

(b) No separate funds for these exchange have been earmarked, as these will be met from the lump sum grant to be allocated to the circle during 1986-87. The capacity of each exchange is given in Annexure I.

STATEMENT

Names of the places with capacity *where Mini-Telephone Exchanges (MAX HI Type) ar$_e$ likeiy to be opened during* 1986-87

	50 *Lines Places*
25 *Lines Places*	
1. Satar	1 Balav.
2. Bhadhar	
3. Matva	
4. Khopala	
5. Mviya	
6. Vagedia	
7. Juna-diwalia	
8. Tikar	
9. Isanpur Mota	
10. Miroli	
11. Port-victor	
12. Harmadiye	
13. Timbi	
14. Matavad	
15. Manuvar	
16. Dolara	
17. Valavada	
18. Vaghchipa	
19. Bhatbander	
20. Dholi	
21. Sukhpur	
22. N. Sarvar	
23. Subharai	
24. Majapur	
25. Jakhan post	
26. Pita	
27. Dolari	
28. Gantia	
29. Vegpur	
30. Jambha	
31. Transvad	

32. Shukla Tirath
33. Vadgam
34. Chitra vad
35. Alindra
36. Jesawada
37. Randhikapur
38. Dhanipur
39. Otha

Newspaper Industry

684. SHRI SHANKER SINH VA GHELA; Will the Minister of IND USTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government'g attention has been drawn to the new? item which appeared in the Times of India dated the 30th January, 1986 wherein it has been reported that the Newspaper Industry has been facing grave crisis due to increase in the price of inputs like newsprint, ink and machinery; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to save this Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Specific proposals if received would be considered on merits.

Vacancies in High Courts

685. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KID WAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacancies in the different High Courie of the country at the beginning of 1985;

(b) the total number of vacancies lying unfilled till January. 1986; and

<c) by what time the vacancies are likely to be fllled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE *IN* THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ); (a) *As on* 1-1-1985 there were 54 vacancies of Judges'in different High Courts of the country.

(b) As on 31-1-1986, there wete 60 vacancies of Judges in different High Courts of the country.

(c) The matter regarding filling up the existing vacancies of Judges is engaging the attention of the Government in consultation with the concerned Constitutional authorities. It is not possible to indicate the time by which the vacancies will be filled.

Repacement of Under Ground Telephone Cables

686. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities and towns, where the underground cables of telephones have been replaced so far; and

(b) the details of the modern methods employed in the maintenance of telephones and telegraph system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA); (a) In 50 towns/cities cables had been replaced. Replacement of under ground cables is a continuous operation and maintenance process in all the cities/towns having underground network.

(b) Modern methods employed in the maintenance of telephones are use of jelly filled cables, Pressurisation of cables, lying of under ground cables inducts digital fault locator, computerisation, replacement of old exchanges with SPC digital type electronic and analogue exchanges.